

**CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING**  
**July 10, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown Jr., Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Janis Fullilove, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb.

Others in attendance: Ricky E. Wilkins, Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney; among others.

**MINUTES:** Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Board's meeting of June 19, 2008 had not been prepared and will be approved at the next meeting.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** Without objection, Commissioner Webb, asked that agenda item # 4, Discussion of Memphis City School Board issues, be postponed until July 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lowery noted that Mr. Johnson with the election committee is expecting to provide the Commission with information concerning staggered terms in the near future.

**CERTIFICATION OF REFERENDUM ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT**

Chairman Lowery recognized City Councils Attorney Allan Wade and asked for his comments concerning the Charter Commission referendums. Mr. Wade began by discussing the formation of the Charter Commission and stated by means of ordinance, the Charter Commission was created and is required to present their proposed referendums to the City Council to be published.

**REFERENDUMS ITEMS**

Attorney Ricky Wilkins distributed for review draft copies of five proposed referendum items. Mr. Wilkins briefly discussed some of the language imbedded in those documents and then mentions the need to clarify the format in which the documents should be presented to City Council. A discussion followed concerning term limit, staggered terms, instant runoff voting for city elections, public sale of MLGW, and vacancy in the office of the Mayor. Commissioner Cox noted they voted on placing a referendum on the ballot relating to ethical violations concerning malfeasance. In closing, it was noted that the final draft of referendums will be presented in the very near future.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to rescind the vote on instant run-off voting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fullilove.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Nay
George Brown	Nay
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Nay
Janis Fullilove	Aye
Sharon Webb	Nay

With (3) Ayes and (4) Nays the motion failed.

## **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES**

Chairman Lowery called the Commissioners attention to the revised list of proposed Charter changes. Several items was discussed and given consideration. The following items listed below will be given further consideration.

1. Regular review of the Charter
2. Compensation for future elective Charter Commissioners.
3. A referendum to prohibit council from making any changes in the Charter by ordinance or otherwise without voter approval.

In addition, to disusing the above matters, Chairman Lowery stated at their July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting they will discuss the following:

1. Commissioner Brown recommendation to add a provision to the Charter that will prevent any legislative body by ordinance to alter the powers of the Mayor. (This matter will be voted on at the 1st meeting in August).
2. Compensation for future Charter Commissioners.
3. Part time judges.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Lowery asked Mr. Wilkins to share with the Commissioners their discussion on the conclusion of their work. Mr. Wilkins stated he will research the constitution where it discusses the establishment and the finalization work of the Charter Commission and then report back. Chairman Lowery stated he is of the opinion that their work should be completed by the August 21, 2008, after the November 4<sup>th</sup> election they will adopt the items presented by the Commissioners and then conclude their work no by December 31, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Chairman Lowery thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next meeting dates are July 30, August 14, and 21 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy-Clay